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APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN
JUSTICE:PMICHEL (SUBS)
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311174
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, US, PGOV
SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK AGREEMENT: TIMING OF JUSTICE VISIT TO KOREA

1. ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, TODAY CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST THAT JUSTICE TEAM COME TO KOREA IN FEBRUARY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR JOINT UNDERSTANDINGS, OR, IF EARLIER INTERROGATION WAS ESSENTIAL, TO ARRIVE IN SEOUL AFTER JANUARY 15. ONLY REASON GIVEN WAS SCHEDULED INSPECTION OF KOREAN CABINET MINISTRIES IN JANUARY BY PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT ANY APPEARANCE OF DELAY OR EQUIVOCATION IN PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS HERE, AND

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ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION. JUSTICE BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BE WELL INTO SUBSTANTIVE INTERROGATION OF TONGSUN PARK BEFORE CONGRESS RECONVENES JANUARY 19. FURTHERMORE, DEFINITE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE THAT CIVILETTI WILL PROCEED TO SEOUL NEXT WEEK.

3. YOU SHOULD URGENTLY TAKE THIS MATTER UP AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITHIN THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, EXPRESSING OUR STRONGEST CONCERN THAT THERE NOT EVEN BE THE APPEARANCE OF ANY EQUIVOCATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT AGREEMENT. IF PROJECTED ARRIVAL OF U.S. PROSECUTORS IS VIEWED AS PRECIPITATE, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT FOR MANY MONTHS THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN DELAYED. WE SEE NO REASON FOR FURTHER WAITING NOW THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. MOMENTUM IS NOW IMPORTANT. WE MUST DEMONSTRATE TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS IN PARTICULAR THAT POSITIVE RESULTS WILL ACCRUE FROM THESE UNDERSTANDINGS.

4. PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR JUSTICE OFFICIALS TO DEPART WASHINGTON FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, TO ARRIVE SEOUL SUNDAY,

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JANUARY 8. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. ANTICIPATE THREE PROSECUTORS, LED BY DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI, THREE FBI AGENTS, AND ONE FEMALE COURT REPORTER. EMBASSY REQUESTED IF POSSIBLE TO MAKE HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS IN COMPOUND TWO SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR OCTOBER VISIT WHICH PERMIT SECURE STORAGE AND SUBSTANTIVE WORK AT QUARTERS IN THE EVENING. YOU MAY DOUBLE UP ON HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS IF NECESSARY.

5. JUSTICE WOULD RELUCTANTLY CONSIDER ONE-WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF THIS SCENARIO IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, BUT WE FEEL THIS IS HIGHLY INADVISABLE FOR POLITICAL REASONS

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BACK HERE. YOU SHOULD NOT ACCEDE TO ANY DELAY WITHOUT STRONGEST REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD WE CONTEMPLATE ARRIVAL OF INVESTIGATORS IN SEOUL LATER THAN JANUARY 15. CHRISTOPHER

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